

## Woodworking Routine

Here is a suggested routine to assist you during the day. Please feel free to personalize these suggestions.

**History:** Early community families needed skills for working with wood. While tasks such as chopping down trees and building a home often involved a community effort, the building of useful items for the home and farmyard usually fell to the father, grandfather or sons. Family members learned how to use tools such as saws, hammers, planes, screwdrivers and clamps. They transformed scrap blocks of wood into useful household utensils with the use of chisels, gouges and awls. You can view many examples of fine craftsmanship and woodworking skill in the furniture and household utensils displayed inside the Bernhard house.

In the 1880s, as the fruit industry increased in Placer County, so did the need for packing crates to transport the produce to market. Wood for fruit crate materials is made from sugar pine trees and is used while still green. It is called “shook”. Green wood is wood that has been recently cut and has not had time to “season” or dry.

### Arrival of students at woodworking

- **Welcome** students and have them sit down. Exchange introductions.
- **Explain** that everyone will make their own fruit crate. Make sure students understand why they were important. (fruit crates helped transport and protect fruit)
- **Ask** the students what agriculture means. Definition: *the business of raising crops and animals.*
- **Ask** the students what produce means. Definition: *fruits and vegetables.*
- **Explain** that the Bernhard family had a vineyard, about 850 fruit trees (mainly apple and pear), a large vegetable garden, and a half acre of blackberries.
- **Ask** the students if they know what grew on the vines in the vineyard Explain that grapes were used to make wine.
- **Show** students the picture of the farm wagons taking produce to the packing sheds.
- **Explain** that by 1869 the transcontinental railroad was finished. This allowed produce to be transported to many places that could not be reached by wagon. By 1888 a special railroad car was invented that was refrigerated so that the produce could last longer and travel farther.
- **Show** students a copy of the 1889 Fair flyer. Point out that across Auburn-Folsom Road and to the left was where the fair was held. The fair was where farms displayed their finest produce and could win awards.
- **Ask** what the children did to help on the farm. Example: during the summer they weeded, watered and harvested. Ask what harvest means.

Definition: *to gather crops*. School did not begin until crops were harvested.

- **Ask** students what replica means. Definition: *a copy, not the original*.
- **Show** students the Bernhard fruit crate and then show them the replica they will be making today.
- **Emphasize** the importance of teamwork on a farm. Explain that everyone will need to use teamwork for this activity.

### **Making the produce box**

- **Help** students partner up.
- **Pass** out a set of materials to each student.
- **Demonstrate** how one student will hold the pieces of wood while their partner nails the box together.
- **Ask** students to write their actual name on the box. (not their character name)
- **Pass** out the second set of materials and repeat the process.
- **Have** students pick out labels (If time allows. Otherwise, pass out labels). Brush plenty of glue on one end of the box and apply the label to the end of the box.
- If students have time left over **show** students how use the cultivator in the garden. This is set up like a relay. One student plows to the other and gets in line, while the other plows back. If the cultivator is not available jump ropes will be.
- **This activity must be supervised by an adult.**
- If a student needs extra time to finish their project they can stay until they are finished. An adult can walk them to their next station.
- When the bell rings line up your students and walk them to the leather station.
- **Students are not allowed to go the next station unless an adult walks them over.**

### **End of the day**

- Please put all materials back in the box.
- Please wash out brushes and glue containers. You may use the kitchen sink located in the back of the stone winery.
- Thank you for helping keep our facilities clean!